ing faculties. He had been swept off his with him next winter-he knew with | feet for an instant, that was all. Let him go on with his schedule for a month, and

he would never recover his balance.

The suggestion was considerably simplified by the fact that it was not necessary to consider Marjory in any way. He would be in no sense deserting her, because she was in no way dependent upon him. She had ample funds of her own, and Marie for company. He had not married her because of any need she had for him along those lines. The protection of his name she would still have. As Mrs. Covington she could travel as safely without him as with him. Even Hamilton was eliminated. He had received his lesson. Anyway, she would probably leave Paris at once for Etois, and so be out of reach of Hamilton.

 $\mathbf{M}^{\mathrm{ONTE}}$  wondered if she would miss him. Perhaps, for a day or so; but, after all, she would have without him the same wider freedom she craved. She would have all the advantages of a widow without the necessity of admitting that her husband was dead. He would always be in the background—an invisible guard. It was odd that neither she nor he had considered that as an attractive possi-bility. It was decidedly more practical than the present arrangement.
As for himself, he was ready to admit

frankly that after to-day golf on an English course would for a time be a bore. From the first sight of her this morning until now, he had not had a dull moment. She had taken him back to the days when his emotions had been quick to respond to each day as a new adventure in

It was last winter in Davos he had first begun to note the keen edge of pleasure becoming the least bit dulled. He had followed the routine of his amusements almost mechanically. He had been conscious of a younger element there who seemed to crowd in just ahead of him. Some of them were young ladies he remembered having seen with pig-tails. They smiled saucily at him—with a confidence that suggested he was no longer to be greatly feared. He could remember when they blushed shyly if he as much as glanced in their direction. His schedule had become a little too much of a schedule by the suggested the annual town of It suggested the annual tour of the middle-aged gentlemen who follow the spas and drink of the waters.

He felt all those things now even more keenly than he had at the time. Looking back at them, he gained a new perspective that emphasized each disagreeable detail. But he had only to think of Marjory as there with him and—presto, they van-ished. Had she been with him at Davos better still, were she able to go there

what joy she would sit in front of him on the bob-sled and take the breathless dip of the Long Run. He knew how she would meet him in the morning with her cheeks stung into a deep red by the clean cold of the mountain air. She would climb the heights with him, laughing. would skate with him and ski with him. and there would be no one younger than

Monte again began to pace his room. She must go to Davos with him next win-He must take her around the whole lule with him. She must go to schedule with him. England and golf with him, and from there to his camp. She would love it there. He could picture her in the woods, on the lake, and before the camp-fire beneath the stars.

From there they would go on to Cambridge for the football season. She would like that. As a girl she had been cheated of all the big games, and he would make up for it. So they would go on to New York for the holidays. He had had rather a stupid time of it last year. He had gone down to Chie's for Christmas, but had been oppressed by an uncomfortable feeling that he did not belong there. Mrs. Chie had been busy with so many presents for others that he had felt like old Scrooge. He had made his usual gifts to relatives, but only as a matter of habit. With Marjory with him, he would be glad to go shopping as Chie and Mrs. Chie did. He might even go on to Philadelphia with her and look up some of the relatives he

THERE in thunder had his thoughts taken him again? He put his head his hands. He had carried her around in his hands. his whole schedule with him just as if this were some honest-to-God marriage. He had done this while she lay in the next room peacefully sleeping in perfect trust. She must never know this danger, nor

had lately been avoiding.

be further subjected to it. There was only one safe way—to take the early train for Calais without even seeing her again.

Monte sat down at the writing desk and seized a pen.

Dear Marjory [he began]: Something has come up unexpectedly that makes it necessary for me to take an early train for England. I can't tell how long I shall be gone, but that of course is not important. I hope you will go on to Etois, as we had planned; or, at any rate, leave Paris. Somehow, I feel that you belong out under the blue sky and not in

He paused a moment and read over that last sentence. Then he scratched it out. Then he tore up the whole letter.

What he had to say should not be writ-He must meet her in the morning and tell her like a man.

To be continued next week

# Madman's Luck

Continued from page 9

"I'll tell her that you said so." Tommy was startled. "You speak, Sandy," said he in gloomy foreboding, "as though I had come near t' my death."

"We've both come near t' death."
"Ay—maybe. Well—no matter."
"'Tis a despairful thing t' say."

Tis a despairful thing t' say. "I'm not carin' very much what hap-ens t' my life," young Tommy declared. "You'll mind that I said so. An' I'm glad that I isn't carin' very much any more. Mark that, Sandy—an' remember."

BETWEEN the edge of Tommy Lark's commodious pan and the promising b'ock in the middle of the lane lay five cakes of ice. They varied in size and weight; and were swinging in the swell—

and unselfishness of the warning in Tom- to an angle, and lying flat in the trough my Lark's voice.
"I thanks you, Tommy," said he. "Twas well spoken."

of the seas. In respect to their distribution they were like stones in a brook: it was a zigzag course—the intervals varied.

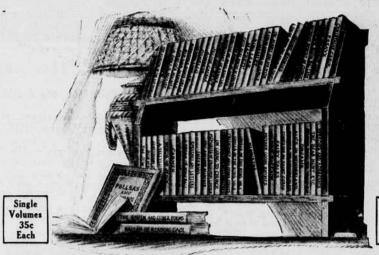
"Oh, you owes me no thanks," Tommy replied simply. "I'd not have the maid grieved for all the world."

was a zigzag course—the intervals varied.

Leaping from stone to stone to cross a brook, using his arms to maintain a balance, a man can not pause; and his diffiance, a man can not pause; and his difficulty increases as he leaps—he grows more and more confused, and finds it the while harder to keep upright. What he fears is a mossy stone and a rolling stone. The small cakes of ice were as slippery as a mossy stone in a brook, and as treacherously unstable as a rolling stone; and in two particulars they were vastly more difficult to deal with—they were all in motion, and not one of them would bear the weight of a man. There was more ice in the lane. It was a mere scattering of fragments and a gathered

patch or two of slush.

Tommy Lark's path to the pan in the middle of the lane was definite: the five small cakes of ice—he must cover the distance in six leaps without pause; and, having come to the middle of the lane, he climbing the steep sides of the big waves, could rest and catch his breath while he riding the crests, slipping downhill, tipped chose out the course beyond. If there



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